

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) A method of thermally processing a photothermographic material comprising a support having hereon one or more thermally-developable imaging layers, the method comprising the steps of:  
exposing an area along at least one edge of the photothermographic material such that, when thermally processed by a thermal processor, the image density of the area will be less than a  $D_{max}$  and greater than a  $D_{min}$  of the photothermographic material; and  
providing means to transport the photothermographic material to the thermal processor such that the edge is first transported through the thermal processor.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a visible image, the method comprising the steps of:  
exposing a first area of a photothermographic material to form a latent image, the photothermographic material comprising a support having hereon one or more thermally-developable imaging layers which are developed when the photothermographic material is thermally processed;  
exposing a second area, different than the first area, of the photothermographic material disposed along a leading edge of the photothermographic material such that, when developed, the second area has an image density less than the  $D_{max}$  and greater than the  $D_{min}$  of the photothermographic material;  
transporting the photothermographic material to a thermal processor such that the leading edge first contacts the thermal processor; and  
thermally processing the first and second areas to develop the visible image.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

exposing a third area, different from the first and second areas, of the photothermographic material disposed along a side edge of the photothermographic material such that, when developed, the third area has an image density of about  $D_{max}$  of the photothermographic material; and

thermally processing the first, second, and third areas to develop the visible image.

19. (New) Media comprising:

a support; and

an image element on said support having an exposed and thermally developed medical image which has a  $D_{min}$  and a  $D_{max}$  optical density, wherein said  $D_{min}$  is defined as optical density achieved when the media is thermally developed without prior exposure to radiation and  $D_{max}$  is defined as a maximum optical density achieved when the media is exposed to a particular radiation source and then thermally developed; said image element further having an exposed, thermally developed area which is separate from said medical image, which is disposed along a length of at least one edge of said media and which has an optical density less than the  $D_{max}$  and greater than the  $D_{min}$  of said medical image.

20. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image is spaced from the at least one edge by at least 0.1mm.

21. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image is spaced from the at least one edge by less than about 0.5mm.

22. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image extends from the at least one edge by no more than about 25mm.

23. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image has a uniform optical density of between about 20 percent and about 80 percent of the Dmax of the medical image.

24. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image has a uniform optical density between about 1.2 OD to about 2.5 OD.

25. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image has a half-tone style image.

26 (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image has a plurality of dots of Dmin and Dmax.

27. (New) The media of Claim 19 wherein said area separate from said medical image has a uniform gradient optical density.